



## Mr. Odell Dewey Gray

March 6, 1925 - December 9, 2019

“God always gives his best to those who leave the choice to Him.”

Odell (Dell) Dewey Gray, 94, of Crawfordville, Florida, passed away on Monday, December 9, 2019.

The family will receive friends on Monday, December 16, 2019, at the Crawfordville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 107 Shadeville Road, Crawfordville, Florida. Viewing will be at 10:00 am and the funeral service will begin at 11:00 am. Interment with full military honors will be held at the Tallahassee National Cemetery following the ceremony at 2:00 pm.

Dell was born March 6, 1925, to John and Mary Gray in Chokoloskee, Florida. He was a US Navy veteran who served as the Coxswain on a 50 foot LCM (Landing Craft Medium), “Like the kind they used to make down at Newport,” he said. On the trip over there, all of his crewmates came down with seasickness or were injured, so he and one other young man ran the big barge for 24 hours, crossing the English Chanel from Plymouth to Omaha Beach. “Dead bodies were everywhere,” he said of Omaha Beach, where he stayed for 42 days without relief.

At daylight on the second day, he awoke to the words, “Get up quick, the Germans have broken through.” Trying to rouse the three men next to him, he

soon realized they were all dead. During the night, someone had placed several of those killed on the beach on D-Day next to him thinking he had been killed also.

Dell loved being surrounded by his family and friends. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved camping, fishing and boating. He was also a long time member of the Crawfordville Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Dell is survived by his youngest brother, Jake; his son, Ken and his daughter-in law, Debbie; his granddaughters, Alisa Gray and Stacy Schmidt and their spouses; four great-grandsons, and many nieces and nephews.

Online condolences may be expressed at [www.abbeyfh.com](http://www.abbeyfh.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311  
(850) 402-8941

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Crawfordville Seventh Day Adventist Church  
107 Shadeville Road  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

## Service

DEC 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Crawfordville Seventh Day Adventist Church  
107 Shadeville Road  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

## Service

DEC 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

Tallahassee National Cemetery  
5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311  
(850) 402-8941



# Tribute Wall

AV

“ Our family met Mr. Dell when we lived on Oyster Bay Drive. For several years we loved seeing him around the water, helping us with our boat and telling us stories. Our kids were young and loved to see Mr. Dell - he was always so patient and kind to them! They remember him fondly, as we all do. I am happy he had a long and blessed life and a wonderful family. We wanted you to know he also meant so much to our family, too.

*Our thoughts are with you,  
John, Alice, Jack & Ariadne Vickers-Davis*

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**Alice Vickers** - December 16, 2019 at 06:27 PM

CH

“*Woah! Who knew he served in the Navy and all that took place. (Ref to his obituary) He was an amiable and modest man and I never heard him speak of his service to our country.*

*Our family often visited the Grays at their home when I was young. Mr. Dell took us on Sabbath afternoon rides in his boat all through the back waters pointing out the wildlife along the way. Those were delightful afternoons.*

*We use to have wonderful times every summer when he and Mrs. Sue would help my parents host dozens of FSU students for a huge annual fish fry on the beach at St. Teresa, FL where Daddy's sister had a beach cottage on the sand. Mr. Gray seined for fish while Mother and Sue made hush puppies, and Daddy fried up all the fish in big outdoor cookers. I especially recall the time a large Sand Shark was hauled ashore in the nets and released - after I sat on it to have my picture taken by a group of students, alarming my Mother to no end. Those were idyllic days riding the glistening waves on old black tire inner tubes where the sand dunes were white and the sea oats were billowing in the breeze.*

*Thanks for the wonderful memories and your family's friendship though the years, Kenny. I look forward to seeing your Dad again in a better place,*

*Charlene*

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**charlene** - December 13, 2019 at 07:38 PM

MH

“ Love you Uncle Odell we sure had some good times and lots of laughs over the years. Until we meet again. RIP



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**Marlene Harrison** - December 12, 2019 at 08:59 AM